Aussie Bricklayer

Bricklayer & Apprentice
Makes good business sense

May 2011

ABBTF
Australian Brick & Blocklaying Training Foundation Ltd

Supported by the Brick and Block Manufacturers of Australia

TASMANIA

We Built a School!

Bricklaying apprentices on the Roseneath Primary School project, at Austins Ferry are very proud of the school they helped to build.

The apprentices were Adam Lane (2nd Year), Daniel Wooley (1st Year), William Casey (2nd Year) and Cameron Parker (4th Year), all employed by Channel Bricklaying.

Andrew Clark of Channel Bricklaying said this was a great project to teach his apprentices a range of bricklaying skills.

The job was all face brickwork and included squint corners, sills and header courses. More than 500 hours of training was provided for the four apprentices during the construction stage from June to November 2010.

Skills Tasmania assessed the apprentices on the job where competencies were achieved and less off-the job training was needed.

All four apprentices are supported by ABBTF with the Brickstart subsidy of $2,000 per annum for each apprentice.

A face brick job of this standard, involving a team of tradesmen with apprentices, is an ideal learning environment. Adam Lane (pictured) spent the most time on the project and is keen to tell his mates and family "I built that".

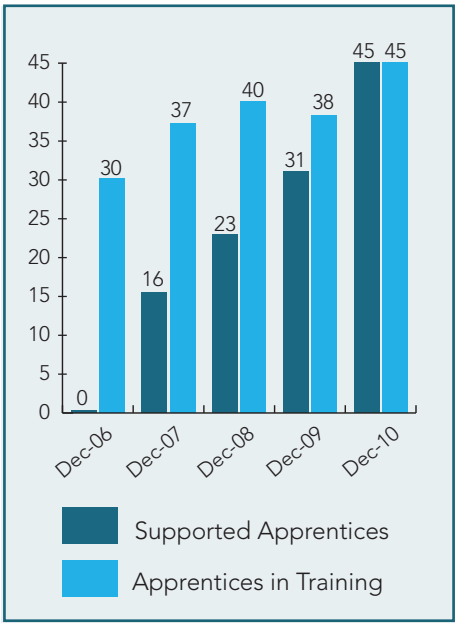
The project included seven separate buildings and used 47,000 Old Launceston face bricks and 8,000 blocks from K&D Bricks & Pavers. Principal Contractors – Hazell Bros.

ABBTF Programs Boost Apprentice Numbers

Apprentice numbers in Tasmania have increased in response to the ABBTF strategy to build a skilled work force. ABBTF Step Out Programs in schools have provided some excellent young apprentices and the $6,000 subsidy has supported bricklayers with their employment and training of new apprentices.

There are 45 apprentices enrolled in training which is the highest ever.

We are pleased to see this sustained growth which gives us confidence that the next generation of trained bricklayers will be capable of satisfying future industry demand.



Tasmanian Master Bricklayers Association

Bricklayers who meet at the Tasmanian Master Bricklayers Association enjoy the benefits of sharing ideas and promoting the trade and bricklayer training.

The association meets every couple of months and members include bricklayers from the housing and commercial sectors.

Members support apprentice training by sponsoring an award for the best first year apprentice. Members also enjoy an annual golf day.

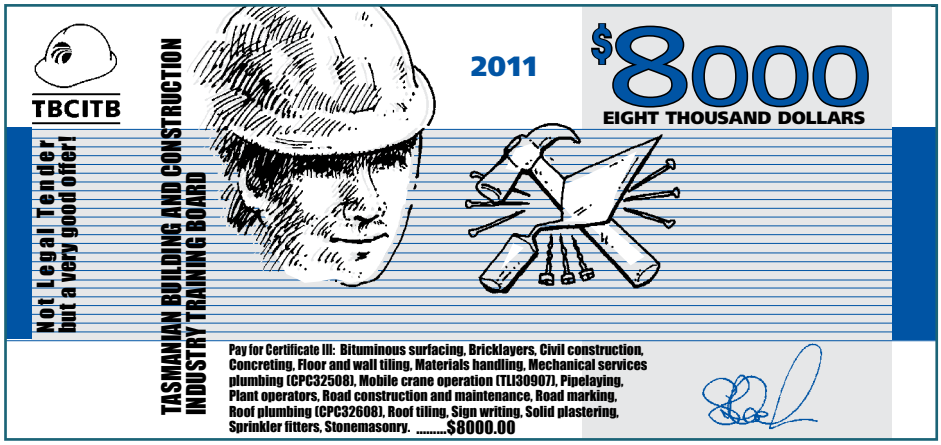
Bricklayers looking to be involved should call Steve Smith on 0427 008 269.

Career Path for Bricklaying and Blocklaying

ABBTF is promoting the career path bricklaying provides with the above advertisment on our website. The promotion is designed to lift the image of the trade and make young people, their parents and schools aware of the great opportunities coming through a trade qualification in bricklaying.

The promotion will appeal to young, ambitious, aspiring potential apprentices who want the freedom to choose their future.

TBCITB $8,000 Support for Bricklayers



The Tasmanian Building & Construction Industry Training Board (TBCITB) is again offering an $8,000 support payment to employers who sign an apprentice between 1 May and 30 November 2011. This payment is on top of ABBTF's subsidy of $6,000 and the Federal Government's $4,000 adding to a **total of $18,000** to employers of new bricklaying apprentices.

The TBCITB support is paid by two instalments:

1. $2,000 after 12 months employment and completion of one Level III competency on the job.
2. $6,000 on successful completion of the training including at least four Level III competencies on the job.

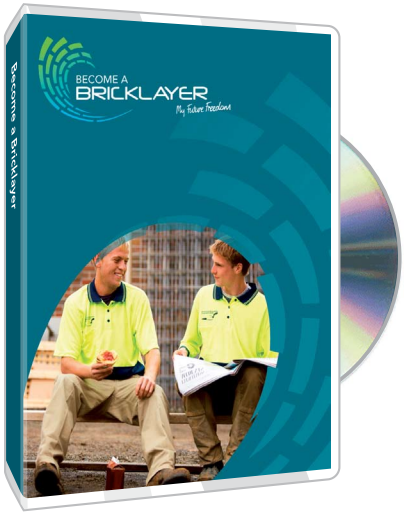
Bricklayers can contact TBCITB on 6223 7804 for further information.

ABBTF DVD Now in Schools

ABBTF has produced an excellent DVD promoting the great trade of bricklaying as a worthwhile career. The DVD, which has been sent to every secondary school in Tasmania, promotes the benefits of being a bricklayer and the career path available in the construction industry.

The DVD is based on extensive ABBTF research which highlights the benefits of working in the outdoors, earning while you learn, becoming your own boss and others.

The DVD can also be viewed on our website www.becomeabricklayer.com.au



Apprentices to Receive $5,500 Tax Free Bonus to Stay in Trade

ABBTF has welcomed the Federal Government's Trade Apprentice Income Bonus which will encourage apprentices to stay in their trade. The Trade Apprentice Income Bonus, which incorporates the Tools for your Trade payment, will mean apprentices will receive tax-free payments as they reach milestones in their apprenticeship starting with a payment of $800 after three months with a total of $5,500 payable up to completion.

ABBTF's general manager, Geoff Noble, says a number of apprentices leave their trade before completion, exacerbating the skills shortage in the industry.

"We have had considerable success increasing the numbers of bricklaying apprentices coming into the trade through our generous subsidy for employers. Now the Federal Government's Bonus will directly encourage apprentices, through the milestone payments, to go right through and obtain their qualification", said Geoff Noble.

TBCITB Committed to Apprentice Training

The TBCITB in their State of the Industry Report confirmed their support for the current apprentice training model for the building and construction industry.

The Board also confirmed it does not support the institutional delivery of apprenticeship qualifications with no employment relationship.

The report also included many issues raised at regional workshops across the state, attended by some 150 industry practitioners.

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